

## Contact Us

If you, or someone close to you, would like more information, please contact us.

Community Choice assures that each client is the decision-maker with regards to his or her long-term care options—whether appropriate care can best be provided at home, in a community setting, or in a nursing facility. Participants will decide, within program and financial eligibility guidelines, which arrangements are most suitable to their own needs.

If you know someone in a hospital or nursing facility who could benefit from this program, please ask to speak with the Community Choice Counselor assigned to that facility

or call the New Jersey  
Office of Long Term Care Options  
toll free at:

**1-877-856-0877**

Visit us at: [www.state.nj.us/health](http://www.state.nj.us/health)



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### Community Choice

Department of Health and Senior Services  
Division of Consumer Support  
Office of Long Term Care Options  
P.O. Box 722  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0722



*Promoting Dignity, Independence and Choice*

***Long-term care is not  
only nursing home care...***



State of New Jersey  
James E McGreevey, *Governor*

Department of Health and Senior Services  
Clifton R. Lacy, M.D, *Commissioner*  
William Conroy, *Deputy Commissioner, Senior Services*

*Community Choice works with clients, families, and State and Federal agencies, to assure viable community support systems and a comprehensive set of long-term care choices for the needs of New Jersey residents.*

## Community Choice

In the past, few alternatives to nursing homes existed for people who were no longer capable of totally caring for themselves. Today, however, nursing home residents and hospital patients who cannot live independently, may choose from a variety of settings that offer different levels of care.

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services began the **Community Choice Initiative** on August 1, 1998, and has since been successful in helping seniors and persons with disabilities learn about long-term care options and make choices that best meet their needs. Some participants decided to return to their homes with the support of family and friends and the use of community programs or in-home services. Others chose to move to **Assisted Living** residences, **Residential Health Care Facilities**, or **Alternate Family Care** homes for their long-term care.

## The Choice Is Yours

*Participation in this program is completely voluntary*

**Community Choice** encourages New Jersey residents to make informed decisions about their long-term care alternatives. This program is designed to help those who:

- Prefer to live in a community-based setting but are not aware of their options
- Have questions about planning care for themselves, or a loved one, when it is uncertain what level of care is needed
- Would benefit from assistance with being discharged from a facility

## Counselors

**Community Choice Counselors** are registered nurses and social workers, specially trained to help hospital patients and nursing home residents arrange appropriate long-term care.

Counselors are aware of the comprehensive services and supports that exist throughout New Jersey to help people with all levels of disability successfully make the transition from institution to community.

Counselors will:

- Offer information about in-home services, housing providers, and community programs
- Explain any financial and medical eligibility requirements
- Coordinate with discharge planners to find services that will support dignity, choice and independence